

CLAIMS

- ✓ 1. A protein derived from a mammal whose expression level in the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) fluctuates with a circadian period.
- 5 2. A protein of claim 1, wherein the mammal is a human.
3. A protein of claim 1, wherein the mammal is a mouse.
- ✓ 4. A protein involved in the formation of circadian rhythm in the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) comprising the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 1 or said sequence in which one or more amino
- 10 acids are substituted, deleted, or added.
- ✓ 5. A protein involved in the formation of circadian rhythm in the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) comprising the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 2 or said sequence in which one or more amino acids are substituted, deleted, or added.
- 15 ✓ 6. A protein involved in the formation of circadian rhythm in the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) encoded by the DNA having a sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 3 or by DNA that hybridizes with the DNA described in SEQ ID NO: 3.
- ✓ 7. A protein involved in the formation of circadian rhythm in
- 20 the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) encoded by the DNA having a sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 4 or by DNA that hybridizes with the DNA described in SEQ ID NO: 4.
8. DNA encoding the protein of any one of claims 1 to 5.
9. DNA having the sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 3 or DNA that
- 25 hybridizes with the DNA having the sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein the DNA encodes a protein involved in the formation of circadian rhythm in the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN).
10. DNA having the sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 4 or DNA that hybridizes with the DNA having the sequence described in SEQ ID NO:
- 30 4, wherein the DNA encodes a protein involved in the formation of circadian rhythm in the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN).
11. A vector carrying the DNA of any one of claims 8 to 10.
12. A transformant expressibly retaining the DNA of any one of claims 8 to 10.
- 35 13. A method for producing the protein of any one of claims 1 to 7, the method comprising culturing the transformant of claim 12.